

REMARKS

The final Action mailed March 1, 2006, has been carefully considered. The claims in the application remain as claims 25-32, and again should be allowable consistent with both the final action and the preceding Office Action. Favorable consideration, entry of the present amendment and early formal allowance are all respectfully requested.

The final Action should not be "final", because applicant's amendment absolutely did not necessitate the new grounds of rejection. The objected to language was present in the claims as previously presented, noting for example claim 25 as it was originally presented at page 13 of the Preliminary Amendment filed August 30, 2004, i.e. claim 25 in its original form recited in lines 2 and 3 *"and a set of jewels comprising at least two jewels, ... ,"*.

As the now criticized language was originally in claim 25 and was not previously criticized, the new rejection is not based on any amendment made in applicant's last Reply. Accordingly, the finality of the preceding Office Action should be withdrawn and the above amendment entered as a matter of right.

Claim 25 has been rejected under the second paragraph of Section 112, the question raised being what is

meant by the phrase "and said set of jewels"? The rejection is respectfully traversed.

First, the language "said set of jewels" refers back to an earlier part of claim 25, line 5, which recites "a set of at least two jewels,". Therefore, claim 25 in its previous form fully meets the requirements of Section 112.

Nevertheless, in deference to the examiner's views and especially because the criticized language is in any case superfluous, claim 25 has been amended above to delete the criticized language. Such an amendment is a formal and cosmetic amendment, and not a substantial amendment relating to patentability. Also, such amendment is clearly not a "narrowing" amendment because the scope of the claims has not been changed. No limitations have been added and none are intended.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 26-32 have been allowed, and claim 25 has not been rejected on the basis of any prior art. Accordingly, applicant understands that all the claims in the application are deemed by the PTO to define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103.

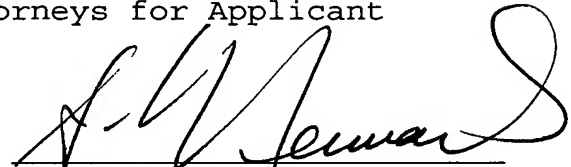
Appln. No. 10/798,502
Amd. dated April 4, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 1, 2006

Applicant believes that all issues raised in the Official Action have been addressed above in a manner that should lead to patentability of the present application. Favorable consideration and early formal allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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